

cc-m 78-5208
3 AUG 1978

DD/A Registry
78-3063

Executive Registry
78-9810

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Deputy Director for Central Intelligence
Deputy Director for Administration

25X1 FROM :
Director of Communications

25X1 SUBJECT : CIA Position on the Draft National COMSEC
Directive

25X1 1. Action Requested: No action is required but this memorandum is to make you aware of two areas of a draft National COMSEC Directive which are unpalatable to CIA. Our opposition to the draft language may cause some controversy which you should be alert to.

25X1 2. Background: On 3 August 1978 members of the former United States Communications Security Board (USCSB) will meet to consider the adoption of a National COMSEC Directive. The final draft of that document is attached. The topics and our intended position on them are as follows:

a. The draft would have the National Communications Security Committee (NCSC) "recommending" COMSEC objectives, policies, and procedures to the Executive Agent, COMSEC - who is the Secretary of Defense. CIA will take the position that the committee should "establish" objectives, policies, and procedures. The Department of State Principal shares this view and it is our understanding that he will take the initiative in making the case for a policymaking committee. It is felt that since the Agency must conduct its COMSEC activities in accordance with National policy and procedures the DCI, through his NSCS representative, should have a vote in their formulation.

b. The other matter which may prove controversial is the CIA position on the establishment and maintenance of a National COMINT Threat Assessment Program which the draft would assign to NSA. Those responsibilities appear on pages 8 and 10 of the attachment. We will argue strongly for the deletion of those functions on the grounds that they are National counter-intelligence responsibilities and as such are DCI functions.

MEMORANDUM MAY BE DOWNGRADED TO CONFIDENTIAL UPON
REMOVAL OF THE ATTACHMENT.

S-E-C-R-E-T

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SUBJECT: CIA Position on the Draft National COMSEC Directive ☐

This position is supportable by the CIA Act of 1947, as amended; National Security Council Intelligence Directive Number 5; and Executive Order 12036. If that argument cannot be carried, the undersigned will move that the matter be referred to the Special Coordinating Committee of the NSC which, under Executive Order 12036, must resolve inter-agency differences concerning implementation of counterintelligence policy.

3. ☐ Staff Position: Our position on the draft has been discussed with of the office of the Special Assistant to the DCI for Counterintelligence, who supports it. No other coordination has been deemed necessary at this time.

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cc: DDCI, w/att
Special Assistant to the
DCI for Counterintelligence, w/att

9 AUG 1978

*I agree w/# 2b
Have qualms w/2a. If Sec of (Defense)
is Exec Agent how can we tie
his hands in having to follow
a committee's decisions?*

"I agree w/Para 2b. Have qualms w/2a.
If Sec of (Defense) is Exec Agent how
can we tie his hands in having to follow
a committee's decision?"

